

REMARKS

In the aforementioned Office Action, claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 16, 21 and 22 are rejected, and claims 3-9, 12-15 and 17-20 are objected to. Applicant is canceling claims 1-2, 10-11, 16 and 21-22, and amending claims 3, 5, 9, 15 and 17-20. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3-9, 12-15, and 17-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant is rewriting claim 3 in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1 from which it depends, claim 5 in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1 from which it depends, and claim 17 in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 16 from which it depends. In addition, Applicant is amending claims 9, 15, and 18-20 to correct informalities.

Based at least upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 3, 5 and 17 are allowable, and request that claims 3, 5 and 17 be allowed. Furthermore, since claims 4 and 12-15 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 3, claims 6-9 depend from claim 5, and claims 18-20 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 17, Applicant

submits that claims 4, 6-9, 12-15 and 18-20 are allowable, and respectfully request that claims 4, 6-9, 12-15 and 18-20 be allowed.

Conclusion

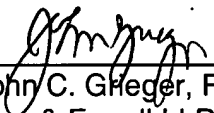
Applicant believes that the objections in the Office Action of March 16, 2004 are fully overcome, and that the Application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has questions regarding the case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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